

IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1-19. (Cancelled).
20. (Previously Presented) A method to treat respiratory distress syndrome comprising:
administering a pharmaceutically compatible composition comprised of a dimer of a synthetic peptide from an N-terminal domain of lung surfactant protein B.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the pharmaceutically compatible composition further comprises an animal-derived lung surfactant protein.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the animal-derived lung surfactant is a porcine lung lavage extract.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the animal-derived lung surfactant is a calf lung lavage surfactant.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the animal-derived lung surfactant is a bovine lung extract.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of claims 20, 21, 22, 23, or 24 wherein the pharmaceutically compatible composition further comprises one or more phospholipids.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the one or more phospholipids includes dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25 wherein the one or more phospholipids is a phospholipid mixture wherein dipalmitoylphosphatidylcholine is the largest component of the phospholipid mixture.

28. (New) A method to treat respiratory distress syndrome comprising:
administering a pharmaceutically compatible composition comprised of a dimer of a synthetic peptide from an N-terminal domain of lung surfactant protein B,
wherein the N-terminal domain peptide exhibits an α helical structure.

29. (New) A method to treat respiratory distress syndrome comprising:
administering a pharmaceutically compatible composition comprised of a dimer of a synthetic peptide from an N-terminal domain of lung surfactant protein B,
wherein the N-terminal domain peptide maintains a coherent, tightly packed lipid monolayer that avoids alveolar collapse during expiration.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge to Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe's Deposit Account No. **150665** the amount of **\$225.00** for the three-month extension fee. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees required by the filing of these papers, and to credit any overpayment to Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe's Deposit Account No. **150665**.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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